

Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District
Ranking Democrat, House Small Business Committee



Nation Comes Together to Help City Rebuild Brooklyn mourns those lost, vows recovery

Dear Friends,

Last month's terrorist attacks on Manhattan and Washington shocked and changed us all. Not one of us remains unaffected by this deliberate tragedy. New Yorkers demonstrated the finest heroism and humanity during the direst hour. Thousands of you risked your lives to help others as smoke, ash and debris rained down from the World Trade

Center. Thousands more of you streamed into blood donation centers to meet an incredible demand. Your spirit and resilience make this country great. Together we will rebuild New York even greater than it was before.

I am working in Congress to make sure relief and recovery resources are available. I have introduced legislation called the Phoenix Fund, which will allow American taxpayers to donate part of their refund to a targeted trust account for disaster victims. On my urging, the Small Business Administration has opened several recovery workshops offering a variety of services.

I encourage you to contact the SBA or FEMA for help if you have been affected economically. If your business is threatened or if you have lost your job as a result of the disaster, you may qualify for federal assistance. Psychological and volunteer resources are also available.

Now it is important to maintain unity and fight discrimination as we recover from this assault on our nation.



The terrorist attacks left a gaping hole in lower Manhattan.

Disaster Assistance Now Available Loans, grants for homeowners, workers and businesses

The federal government provides loans and grants to help New Yorkers recover from last month's terrorist attacks. They are available not just for physical damage but also for economic damage to businesses and workers who lost jobs as a result of the disaster. Homeowners with damaged residences may also apply.

Call 1-800-659-2955 or 1-800-877-8339 (FRS) for the hearing or speech impaired or visit:

- ♦ Chinatown Community Center, 62 Mott St. (1/2 block south of Canal St.; Mon-Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Canal St. M.T.A.: Q, W J, M, 4, 5, 6; Chinese language services available)
- ♦ Empire State Development Business Information Center, 633 Third Ave., 32nd floor, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-7p.m., Sat.-Sun.- 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Grand Central Station M.T.A.)

- ♦ N.Y.C. Economic Development Center, 80 Pine St. (corner of Maiden Lane, Mon.-Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fulton St.-Broadway-Nassau M.T.A.)
- ♦ N.Y.C. Dept. of Business Services, 110 William St. (Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fulton St.-Broadway-Nassau M.T.A.)
- ♦ Human Resources Admin. Bldg., 180 Water St. (Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Fulton St.-Broadway-Nassau M.T.A.)
- ♦ 247 West 54th St., 4th Floor (Mon.-Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; B-D-E @ 7th Ave. or 1-9 @ 50th St. M.T.A.)

FEMA is moving from disaster response to recovery. Victims are encouraged to call FEMA to register and learn more about the agency's services at 1-800-462-9029, 8a.m.-8p.m. Mon.-Sun. Those with speech- or hearing-impairment may call toll-free at TTY 1-800-462-7585.

Town Halls Helped Prepare for NYCHA Hearing

Concerned residents confront housing agency's plans

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez hosted a series of town hall meetings to discuss the New York City Housing Authority's plan for the coming year, including one at the Williamsburg Eastern District YMCA. The meetings were designed to prepare the community for a NYCHA hearing August 21 that the agency held on its plan.



Congresswoman Velázquez addresses a town hall meeting to prepare for the NYCHA hearing.

Housing residents were concerned about several NYCHA proposals for the coming year.

One is the community service requirement mandated by federal law that will impose unpaid work on unemployed housing residents who are not in school.

NYCHA also proposes to change how rent in public housing is determined. NYCHA is moving toward a flat rent system, where residents are vulnerable to rent hikes next year.

Finally, NYCHA would like to promote “deconcentration of poverty” by encouraging higher-income families to move into public housing. But this could be done at the expense of those families most in need of this housing.

Congresswoman Velázquez met with residents at the Williamsburg Eastern District YMCA and led a march to the NYCHA hearing to make sure all views were heard.

Rally Protests Garment Worker Sweatshop Conditions

Coalition opposes exploitation of low-wage factory workers

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Workers (UNITE) to protest sweatshop conditions in factories that manufacture top fashion brands.

She even cut up her Banana Republic card to oppose companies who profit from clothes made by garment workers who are poorly paid, overworked and often forced to live where they work. Factory owners regularly block unions formed to protect workers’ rights.

“Shame on you,” Congresswoman Velázquez said outside the store. “Banana Republic, Ann Taylor, we are watching you. We will hold you accountable.”

UNITE announced a web site for consumer news about fashion retailers and sweatshop conditions that can be viewed on the World Wide Web at www.behindthelabel.org.



Congresswoman Velázquez joins a rally protesting the treatment of garment workers who produce some of the top fashion brands.

Grants Awarded to Our Community

United Academy Inc.....\$350,887 Assists programs for HIV prevention and intervention	Local Development Corp. of East N.Y.....\$500,000 Supports anti-poverty programs
CUNY/La Guardia Community College.....\$253,567 Aids students seeking to transfer to four-year college	Yeshiva Gedoloh OHR Yisroel School.....\$191,874 E-Rate Internet connection wire-up
Brooklyn Public Library.....\$239,412 Supports library preservation and improvement projects	Brooklyn Public Library.....\$175,654 Supports library's museum activities
St. Thomas Aquinas School.....\$5,558 E-Rate Internet connection wire-up	Beikvei Hatzoin School.....\$6,120 E-Rate Internet connection wire-up
Blessed Sacrament School.....\$8,775 E-Rate Internet connection wire-up	Holy Child Middle School.....\$14,670 E-Rate Internet connection wire-up